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MINUTES OF THE FEDERAL INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (FICEMS)

DATE AND TIME: March 1, 2001 10:30 a.m.

LOCATION: Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C)
8737 Colesville Road (Route #29)
Suite 900
Silver Spring, Maryland

MEMBER AGENCY REPRESENTATION:

Federal Emergency Management Agency
Mr. Hugh Wood
FICEMS Chairperson
United States Fire Administration

Department of Agriculture
No Representative

Federal Communications Commission
No Representative

Department of Defense
No Representative

General Services Administration
No Representative

Department of Health and Human Services
Mr. Bob Waddell
Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C)

Department of Interior
No Representative

Department of Transportation
Captain Garry Criddle
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

Department of Labor
Mr. Chap Pierce
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Department of Veterans Affairs
Mr. Philip Wooten

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OTHER FEDERAL ATTENDEES:

Mr. William Troup
United States Fire Administration

Mr. Jeff Dyar
United States Fire Administration

Ms. Susan Hernandez
United States Fire Administration

Captain Art French, M.D.
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration/
United States Coast Guard

Ms. Susan Eads Role
Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C)

Ms. Isabelle Mellese d'Hospital
Emergency Medical Services for Children (EMS-C)

Lt. Colonel Debra Niemayer
Department of Defense
United States Air Force Office of the Surgeon General

OTHER ATTENDEES PRIVATE SECTOR:

Mr. Kurt Krumperman
American Ambulance Association (AAA)

Mr. Joseph Robison
National Volunteer Fire Council

Dr. Nadine Levick, M.D.
Johns Hopkins University

Lieutenant Erroll W. George
Prince George Fire/EMS Department

Captain Michael Love
Montgomery County Fire/Rescue

Mr. Pete Chambers
American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM)

Christopher McLean
ComCare Alliance

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Mary Newman
National Center for Early Defibrillation

Mr. Everett Morton
Omni Medical

Dave McGinnis
Medtronic

Mr. Billy Rutherford
American Integrated Training Systems

Ms. Dara Nicholls
Star Mountain, Inc.

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by FICEMS Chairperson Mr. Wood.

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was an introduction of attendees.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Chairperson requested approval of the FICEMS Meeting Minutes for December 7, 2000. The minutes were approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

The U.S. Air Force Office of the Surgeon General has been invited to perform a briefing at this meeting as requested at the December 7 FICEMS meeting.

IV. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ambulance Design - No report.

Technology – Captain French briefed on possibility of a national-level meeting on EMS Technology that will discuss five categories of research areas (Biomedical Sensors, Data Collection, Distance Education and Simulation, Incident Management/GIS, and Emergency Responder Safety). He is looking to establish liaison with other Federal and private sector organizations regarding research through the Department of Transportation Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) Public Safety Office. The overall goal will be a deliverable documents discussing EMS technology that can be used as a reference tool. The expected time line for this is 3-6 months.

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V. MEMBER AGENCY REPORTS:

NHTSA: Captain Criddle briefed the report on NHTSA activities is available from their website at www.nhtsa.dot.gov/people/injury/ems. He discussed the Trauma Vision effort that NHTSA is involved in and reported on the Educational Agenda that is looking at core competencies of all levels of EMS providers (First Responder to EMT-Paramedic) with a goal of establishing uniform definitions of this across the United States.

OSHA: Mr. Pierce briefed on OSHA activities (Attachment #1). He mentioned that further information on OSHA current initiatives could be obtained from their website at www.osha.gov.

DHHS/EMSC: Mr. Waddell reported that May 23 of this year's EMS week will be National EMS-C day. He also reported that EMSC has completed its grants review cycle.

Ms. Isabelle Mellese d'Hospital of EMS-C reported on the multi-agency program announcement dealing with research on EMS for children has been completed. Further information on this can be obtained from EMS-C.

FEMA/USFA: Mr. Troup reported that the Fire Fighter Investment and Response Enhancement (FIRE) Act has been funded and that USFA is establishing a Grants Office to manage the program. Current information on the FIRE Act Grants may obtained from the USFA Website at www.usfa.fema.gov. The e-mail address for the Grants Office is USFAGRANTS@fema.gov and their telephone number is (301) 447-1608.

Mr. Dyar mentioned that the whitehouse.gov website reported that the FIRE Act was not recommended for continued funding in FY2002.

Mr. Dyar and Mr. Troup reported that the FICEMS Executive Secretariat function will be handled via contract and that this will be the last meeting the Mr. Troup will serve in this role. There was discussion possibly through support from the ITS program that the role of this contracted position could expand.

Mr. Dyar reported that USFA has two courses being developed, *All Hazards Risk Analysis for EMS* that focuses on comprehensive injury prevention and the *Incident Safety Officer (ISO)/Health and Safety Officer (HSO)* course.

Mr. Troup briefed attendees that the draft of the revision of the USFA *Emergency Services Infection Control Manual* has been completed and that the final version should be ready in approximately six months.

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All Hazards Risk Analysis for EMS that focuses on comprehensive injury prevention. He also discussed the expansion of the *Incident Safety Officer (ISO)/Health and Safety Officer (HSO)* course.

VI. PRIVATE SECTOR AGENCY REPORTS:

Johns Hopkins University: Dr. Levick reported that the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has taken an interest to address the hazards of occupants in ambulances.

She is looking to build a stronger link with the academic community on EMS safety.

On March 8, 2001 in Detroit, Michigan she will be making a presentation on emergency vehicle safety at the Society of Automotive Engineering (SAE).

American Ambulance Association (AAA): Mr. Krumperman reported that the Documentation Guide is finished and is available from the AAA.

He also reported that the first draft of the Protocol for Drug Temperature and Environment Storage was completed and U.S. Pharmacopeia (USP) is currently reviewing it. He should have more information by the June FICEMS meeting.

AITs: Mr. Rutherford reported that they are developing an internet-based distance education program on Burn Casualty Management that is funded by the Navy and will be in the public domain.

Star Mountain: Ms. Nichols reported on the Guidelines for Ambulance Purchasing, Air Medical Curriculum, and an Injury Prevention and Control Program that includes Continuing Medical Education (CME) projects that Star Mountain is working on for NHTSA. She mentioned that Star Mountain is working with VA on a distance education training project.

National Center for Early Defibrillation: Ms. Newman reported on the center and its mission to provide outreach information to the public and EMS on early defibrillation. For further information you may visit their website at www.early-defib.org or call them at (866) AED-INFO.

ComCARE Alliance: Mr. McLean reported that the ComCARE Alliance is working with NHTSA on Automatic Crash Notification Technology. Their organization fosters coordinated emergency communications.

American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM): Mr. Chambers reported that ASTM is looking to conduct its EMS standards meetings at the EMS Today Conference.

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He also reported that the ASTM Ground Ambulance Design Standard (F 30.01.01) should be completed after the meeting at this conference and that ASTM is working with the Department of Defense on the Air Ambulance Standard (F 30.01.02) which should be done in about six months.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Lieutenant Colonel Niemeyer of the U.S. Air Force Office of the Surgeon General provided a briefing on Global Expeditionary Medical System (GEMS), the LEADERS System, and other programs that provide for force protection, logistics, patient data, and medical command and control to the Air Force. She mentioned that the Air Force has an interest in collaboration with other Federal agencies in this initiative. For more information on this you may contact her at Debra.Niemeyer@USAFSG.Bolling.af.mil or by calling (202) 767-5526.

Dr. French presented information regarding interest from the Public Health Service regarding a consolidated system of data collection on AED use by Federal agencies. It was requested that this be a topic of discussion under New Business at the June 7 FICEMS meeting. Dr. French requested that if anyone has information in this area to contact him before this June 7 meeting.

Mr. Troup reported that to facilitate communications among members and participants of FICEMS an e-mail domain name has been established, FICEMS @fema.gov. He further stated that this will be of benefit to allow for a transition to the new FICEMS Executive Secretariat.

VIII. NEXT MEETING:

Date and Time: June 7, 2001, 10:30 a.m.

Location: National Emergency Training Center (NETC)
Room N-408
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, Maryland

IX. ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments, the meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Wood at 12:00 p.m.

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